

DD/A 74-3859

4 OCT 1974

NOTE FOR: Mr. Walter Pforzheimer
Mr. Angus Thuermer

Gentlemen:

1. As you both know, the Agency has been wrestling as to whether or not it should officially participate in the Nation's Bicentennial celebration; and, if so, what form our participation should take. The matter has been on the table for some six or eight months and was most recently discussed at the Management Committee meeting of 23 September 1974.

2. Let me quote for you the results of that discussion as disclosed in the Management Committee minutes:

"Bicentennial Participation (MCA-103). After a brief discussion, it was decided that Mr. Blake will consult with Messrs. Walter Pforzheimer and Angus Thuermer to develop ideas on the scope and detail of our participation. Following this action, consideration will be given to having someone get in touch with Bicentennial Chairman John Warner and sound him out as to whether a display of intelligence-related materials would be appropriate in connection with observances at the National Archives, Smithsonian Institution, or elsewhere in the USG."

3. It seems to me that there are at least two different ways to approach the problem. One is to reflect the spirit of the above quotation from the minutes and consider some Agency activity externally displayed. The other alternative is to restrict our thinking to a level of participation which is internal to the Agency population. There appears to be little consensus as to which way to go in this matter amongst the members of the Management Committee.

4. May I ask you two thoughtful gentlemen to join forces and give the matter your mutual attention. The only guidance, if I may call it that, I would put forth is that in any recommendation forthcoming we all be mindful of work load factors. I am of the opinion that we are all pretty well occupied these days, and I would view with dismay an approach to participation that would call for a considerable investment of man-hours.

5. We would appreciate a presentation of your thoughts by mid-December after which we will have the matter rescheduled for Management Committee consideration.

/s/ John F. Blake

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